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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Bernard Belleau et al.

Examiner: T. McKenzie

Serial No.: 09/760,380

Group Art Unit: 1624

Filed: January 16, 2001

Title: PROCESS FOR PREPARING SUBSTITUTED 1,3-OXATHIOLANES  
WITH ANTIVIRAL PROPERTIESRECEIVED  
FEB 14 2003  
TECH CENTER 1600/2900REPLYAssistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

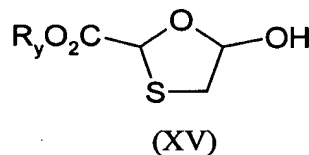
Sir:

In response to the Office Actions dated October 10, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

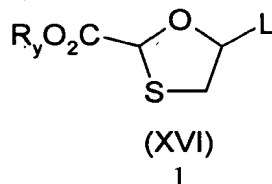
IN THE CLAIMS:

--35. A process comprising:

reacting a mercaptoacetaldehyde with a compound of formula  $R_yOOCCHO$ , wherein  $R_y$  is  $C_{1-12}$  alkyl or  $C_{6-20}$  aryl to obtain a compound of formula (XV)



converting the hydroxyl group of the compound of formula (XV) to a leaving group L to obtain a compound of formula (XVI):



IAF-1/2 C11